

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, yesterday at noon was so much like September 11. Mr. Speaker, I was standing on the House floor with our majority leader as I saw Members beginning to hurry out of this Chamber.

As I exited the House, an F-16 literally flashed across the sky as thousands yesterday, as that day in 2001, streamed from the Capitol into the sunlight of uncertain moments and an undefined threat.

So much was the same, but so much has really changed. On September the 11 evacuation was largely disorganized and spontaneous. But yesterday, thanks to the extraordinary leadership of the United States Capitol Police; Bill Livingood, the House Sergeant at Arms; and Police Chief Terence Gainer, 25,000 public officials and personnel were evacuated from the Capitol and buildings around Capitol Hill in less than 6 minutes in an intense, but orderly, manner.

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It is an extraordinary comfort, I know, to millions of Americans who know that whatever the day may bring in our Nation's capital, thanks to the leadership and the security officials here on Capitol Hill, and the Department of Homeland Security, our national government is ready.

THIRTY YEARS LATER HELP THE HMONG STILL IN LAOS

(Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I rise on the occasion of the 30th anniversary of America pulling out of the Vietnam war.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in horror at the continued atrocities against the Hmong folk who now reside in the jungles of Laos. Like a cheap date, a one-night stand, we abandoned our brethren who fought along with the CIA, and they were forced to flee into the jungle. Reports of rapes, mass killings, use of biological weapons have gone uninvestigated.

Mr. Speaker, I call upon the State Department to press Laos to immediately pull back its troops, grant international human rights monitors and workers access to the Hmong community and allow them to peacefully settle.

Mr. Speaker, we cannot stand by and abandon our fellow soldiers in the Vietnam war.

BAIT AND SWITCH ON STEM CELLS

(Mr. PITTS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, in the coming weeks, some will say that they

only want to use Federal funds to destroy human embryos stored in IVF clinics for stem cell research. This is a skilled use of the bait-and-switch tactic.

First, these embryos are not primed for research; they are primed for adoption. Eighty-one embryos have been adopted today with dozens more on the way, called "snowflake adoptions." Researchers who support embryonic stem cell research acknowledge that these IVF embryos will not provide near the desired type or number of stem cell lines demanded by the biotech industry and admit that they will not be genetically diverse. In order to get that sample and overcome that rejection, they will need to clone human embryos. Advocates have admitted as much on this floor in the Chamber.

The ultimate goal of researchers is free and unfettered access to Federal dollars to create, clone and destroy human embryos for lab experiments. Congress should instead focus on supporting adult stem cell research, which has been proven to work successfully, is not morally controversial, and holds true promise for disease victims. We should not kill to harvest an experiment.

REPUBLICAN ABUSE OF POWER

(Mr. CLEAVER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CLEAVER. Mr. Speaker, we should always be cautious in this quest for absolute power here in Washington. This was not the vision of our Founding Fathers.

Today, we are dealing with a manufactured judicial crisis. Since President George Bush took office, the Senate has confirmed a whopping 208 of his judicial nominations and turned back only 10. That, my friends, is a 95 percent confirmation rate. That rating is the highest approval rating of any President in modern times, including Ronald Reagan and Bill Clinton. Thanks to these confirmations, the President presides over the lowest court vacancy rate since Ronald Reagan was President.

Congratulations, Mr. President.

Instead of accepting that success and avoiding further divisiveness and partisanship here in Washington, my hope is that our President will not add to the current bitterness here and around the Nation by resubmitting the names of rejected nominees again this year.

EXPRESSING GROWING CONCERNS ABOUT A GATHERING LEFTIST STORM IN LATIN AMERICA

(Mr. MACK asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MACK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my strong concern about a gathering storm that poses a real threat to freedom, security and pros-

perity throughout the Western Hemisphere.

At the center of this storm is Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez, who is fanning the flames of leftist, anti-American, anti-freedom movements that are fostering regional instability.

In the years since he took office as a democratically-elected leader, Chavez has moved sharply away from those ideals. He has stacked the government with judges and allies to implement his own personal will. He has cracked down on the freedom of the press. He is financing a State-run television network patterned after Al Jazeera to spread his propaganda far and wide, and he has forged a dangerous alliance with Fidel Castro.

Mr. Speaker, Hugo Chavez fancies himself as a modern Simon Bolivar, who wanted to unite Latin America into one Nation. Hugo Chavez is trying to alter the balance of power in our hemisphere. The United States must take this growing threat seriously.

REPUBLICAN ABUSE OF POWER IN SENATE

(Ms. MATSUI asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, the power grab Senate Republicans are about to take is not about seven judges; it is about clearing the way for a Supreme Court nominee who only needs 51 votes instead of 60 votes.

Senate Republicans do not want a David Souter, an Anthony Kennedy, a Sandra Day O'Connor, a Ruth Bader Ginsberg or a Steven Breyer, all of whom were confirmed with nearly unanimous, bipartisan support.

If President Bush is successful with this extreme power grab in the Senate, he will be able to appoint extreme, right-wing judges to the court.

President Bush wants to turn the Senate into a second House of Representatives, rubber-stamping his agenda, and that is simply not what our Founding Fathers envisioned when they created two distinctly different congressional chambers.

Mr. Speaker, Democrats will fight to protect our constitutional checks and balances and basic fairness for the American people.

THE BULGARIAN MIRACLE CONTINUES

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday I was in Sofia, Bulgaria, on a delegation with the gentlewoman from Guam (Ms. BORDALLO). I saw firsthand the Bulgarian miracle of a dynamic democracy, a partner with America on the war on terrorism, and a thriving and robust economy providing jobs for young people.